

General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2008

LCO No. 6119

HB0549506119HD0

Offered by:

REP. MCMAHON, 15th Dist. SEN. MEYER, 12th Dist. REP. MIOLI, 136th Dist. REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist. REP. THOMPSON, 13th Dist. REP. TRUGLIA, 145th Dist. SEN. FREEDMAN, 26th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **5495**

File No. 395

Cal. No. 226

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSITION OF YOUTH FROM THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES."

- Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following in lieu thereof:
- 3 "Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2008) (a) On or before July 1, 2009 4 and annually thereafter, the Commissioners of Children and Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall, within available 5 6 appropriations, jointly report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the 7 general statutes, to the Governor, the joint standing committees of the 8 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human 9 services, appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and the 10 select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of 11 matters relating to children on the process by which youth transition

12 from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of

- 13 Mental Health and Addiction Services.
- 14 (b) Such report, using data and information specific to the previous
- 15 calendar year, shall provide a description of the process of transition,
- 16 including:
- 17 (1) (A) The number of youth in the care of the Department of
- 18 Children and Families who are fifteen years of age or older, with ages
- 19 delineated, who have been identified, through a formal screening
- 20 process developed by the Department of Children and Families, as in
- 21 need of referral to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
- 22 Services, and (B) the number of youth, with ages delineated, referred
- 23 from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of
- 24 Mental Health and Addiction Services;
- 25 (2) For each group of youth described in subparagraph (A) of
- 26 subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A) the number of youth in each
- 27 priority group designated through prioritization criteria established by
- 28 the Department of Children and Families and the Department of
- 29 Mental Health and Addiction Services, and (B) information on the
- 30 status of identified permanency plans;
- 31 (3) For youth described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of
- 32 this subsection, (A) the average length of time between the youth's
- 33 sixteenth birthday or the date on which the child is identified as
- 34 needing referral, whichever occurs later, and the date of referral to the
- 35 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, (B) the average
- 36 length of time between the date of referral from the Department of
- 37 Children and Families and the date of acceptance for services by the
- 38 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, (C) a summary
- 39 description of the placement settings of such youth at the time of
- 40 referral, (D) the number deemed ineligible and a summary description
- 41 of the reasons for the denials, and (E) a description of service levels
- 42 and placement settings of those accepted for services by the
- 43 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

(c) For those youth referred from the Department of Children and Families and accepted into the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Young Adult Program who are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one, the report shall also include: (1) The average length of time between the youth's eighteenth birthday and placement in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services service system; (2) the number of youth who refuse, withdraw or are discharged; (3) the average length of time between acceptance and refusal, withdrawal or discharge; and (4) a summary description of reasons for refusal, withdrawal or discharge.

(d) In preparing the report, the Departments of Children and Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall also review and provide comment on: (1) Any barriers to referral by the date thirty days after the youth's sixteenth birthday or the date on which the youth is identified in need of referral, whichever occurs later, of youth who are in the care of the Department of Children and Families and who may require services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; (2) any barriers to determining whether a youth is accepted for services by the date thirty days after the date of referral from the Department of Children and Families; (3) any barriers to developing appropriate transition plans for youth by the date fortyfive days after the date of determination that a youth is accepted for services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; and (4) any barriers to providing the most clinically appropriate services to youth, both while in the care of the Department of Children and Families and later when receiving services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2008) On or before July 1, 2009, the Department of Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, evaluate the timeliness, effectiveness and quality of the transition process through a qualitative case review and may contract with an independent consultant to conduct any or all components of the review as required by this section. Such review shall be conducted in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction

Services and may include, but not be limited to, an examination of: (1) The quality of referrals from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, eligibility determinations from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and transition plans; (2) how youth experience the transition; (3) the effectiveness of the transition process in assessing, planning for and meeting the needs of youth identified as in need of referral to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; (4) whether youth awaiting transition experience discharge delays, the reasons for any such delays and the barriers to eliminating such delays; and (5) whether youth transitioning from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services are at high risk of involvement in the juvenile delinquency and adult criminal justice systems and, if so, the reasons for such risk, and a description of best practices to prevent criminal justice involvement.

- Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17a-11 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):
- (a) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, admit to the department on a voluntary basis any child or youth who, in the commissioner's opinion, could benefit from any of the services offered or administered by, or under contract with, or otherwise available to, the department. Application for voluntary admission shall be made in writing by the parent or guardian of a child under fourteen years of age or by such person himself or herself if he or she is a child fourteen years of age or older or a youth. The fact that a parent has applied for services or received services for his or her child through voluntary admission shall not be used against the parent (1) in any investigation conducted by the department in accordance with section 17a-101g, (2) when making placement decisions for the child, (3) when making foster care licensing determinations in accordance with section 17a-114, or (4) in any court proceeding related to the placement of a minor relative of the parent.

Sec. 4. Section 46b-129 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2008):

(a) Any selectman, town manager, or town, city or borough welfare department, any probation officer, or the Commissioner of Social Services, the Commissioner of Children and Families or any childcaring institution or agency approved by the Commissioner of Children and Families, a child or such child's representative or attorney or a foster parent of a child, having information that a child or youth is neglected, uncared-for or dependent, may file with the Superior Court that has venue over such matter a verified petition plainly stating such facts as bring the child or youth within the jurisdiction of the court as neglected, uncared-for or dependent, within the meaning of section 46b-120 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, the name, date of birth, sex and residence of the child or youth, the name and residence of such child's parents or guardian, and praying for appropriate action by the court in conformity with the provisions of this chapter. Upon the filing of such a petition, except as otherwise provided in subsection (k) of section 17a-112, the court shall cause a summons to be issued requiring the parent or parents or the guardian of the child or youth to appear in court at the time and place named, which summons shall be served not less than fourteen days before the date of the hearing in the manner prescribed by section 46b-128, and the court shall further give notice to the petitioner and to the Commissioner of Children and Families of the time and place when the petition is to be heard not less than fourteen days prior to the hearing in question.

(b) If it appears from the specific allegations of the petition and other verified affirmations of fact accompanying the petition and application, or subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to believe that (1) the child or youth is suffering from serious physical illness or serious physical injury or is in immediate physical danger from the child's or youth's surroundings, and (2) that as a result of said conditions, the child's or youth's safety is endangered and immediate

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removal from such surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's or youth's safety, the court shall either (A) issue an order to the parents or other person having responsibility for the care of the child or youth to appear at such time as the court may designate to determine whether the court should vest in some suitable agency or person, including, but not limited to, a person related to the child by blood or marriage, the child's or youth's temporary care and custody pending disposition of the petition, or (B) issue an order ex parte vesting in some suitable agency or person, including, but not limited to, a person related to the child by blood or marriage, the child's or youth's temporary care and custody. A preliminary hearing on any ex parte custody order or order to appear issued by the court shall be held not later than ten days after the issuance of such order. The service of such orders may be made by any officer authorized by law to serve process, or by any probation officer appointed in accordance with section 46b-123, investigator from the Department of Administrative Services, state or local police officer or indifferent person. Such orders shall include a conspicuous notice to the respondent written in clear and simple language containing at least the following information: (i) That the order contains allegations that conditions in the home have endangered the safety and welfare of the child or youth; (ii) that a hearing will be held on the date on the form; (iii) that the hearing is the opportunity to present the parents' position concerning the alleged facts; (iv) that an attorney will be appointed for parents who cannot afford an attorney; (v) that such parents may apply for a court-appointed attorney by going in person to the court address on the form and are advised to go as soon as possible in order for the attorney to prepare for the hearing; [and] (vi) that such parents may request the Department of Children and Families to investigate the possibility of temporarily placing the child or youth with any person, including a person related to the child or youth by blood or marriage, who might serve as a licensed foster parent, certified relative caregiver or temporary custodian for such child or youth; and (vii) if such parents have any questions concerning the case or appointment of counsel, any such parent is advised to go to the court or call the clerk's office at the court as soon as possible. Upon application for

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appointed counsel, the court shall promptly determine eligibility and, if the respondent is eligible, promptly appoint counsel. The expense for any temporary care and custody shall be paid by the town in which such child or youth is at the time residing, and such town shall be reimbursed for such expense by the town found liable for the child's or youth's support, except that where a state agency has filed a petition pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the agency shall pay such expense. The agency shall give primary consideration to placing the child or youth in the town where such child or youth resides. The agency shall make diligent efforts to place the child with a <u>relative by blood or marriage.</u> The agency shall file in writing with the clerk of the court the reasons for placing the child or youth in a particular placement outside the town where the child or youth resides or the reasons for placing the child or youth in the home of a person who is not a relative by blood or marriage. Upon issuance of an ex parte order, the court shall provide to the commissioner and the parent or guardian specific steps necessary for each to take to address the ex parte order for the parent or guardian to retain or regain custody of the child or youth. Upon the issuance of such order, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such order, the court shall make a determination whether the Department of Children and Families made reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her parents or guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health and safety.

- (c) In any proceeding under this section, any grandparent of the child may make a motion to intervene and the court shall grant such motion except for good cause shown. Upon the granting of such motion, such grandparent may appear by counsel or in person.
- (d) The preliminary hearing on the order of temporary custody or order to appear or the first hearing on a petition filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be held in order for the court to: (1) Advise the parent or guardian of the allegations contained in all

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petitions and applications that are the subject of the hearing and the parent's or guardian's right to counsel pursuant to subsection (b) of section 46b-135 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes; (2) assure that an attorney, and where appropriate, a separate guardian ad litem has been appointed to represent the child or youth in accordance with subsection (b) of section 46b-123e of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes and sections 46b-129a and 46b-136 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes; (3) upon request, appoint an attorney to represent the respondent when the respondent is unable to afford representation, in accordance with subsection (b) of section 46b-123e of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes; (4) advise the parent or guardian of the right to a hearing on the petitions and applications, to be held not later than ten days after the date of the preliminary hearing if the hearing is pursuant to an order of temporary custody or an order to show cause; (5) advise the parents or guardian of the rights of grandparents in accordance with subsection (c) of this section; (6) accept a plea regarding the truth of such allegations; [(6)] (7) make any interim orders, including visitation, that the court determines are in the best interests of the child or youth. The court, after a hearing pursuant to this subsection, shall order specific steps the commissioner and the parent or guardian shall take for the parent or guardian to regain or to retain custody of the child or youth; [(7)] (8) take steps to determine the identity of the father of the child or youth, including ordering genetic testing, if necessary, and order service of the petition and notice of the hearing date, if any, to be made upon him; [(8)] (9) if the person named as the father appears, and admits that he is the father, provide him and the mother with the notices that comply with section 17b-27 and provide them with the opportunity to sign a paternity acknowledgment and affirmation on forms that comply with section 17b-27. Such documents shall be executed and filed in accordance with chapter 815y and a copy delivered to the clerk of the superior court for juvenile matters; and [(9)] (10) in the event that the person named as a father appears and denies that he is the father of the child or youth, advise him that he may have no further standing in any proceeding concerning the child, and either order

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genetic testing to determine paternity or direct him to execute a written denial of paternity on a form promulgated by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator. Upon execution of such a form by the putative father, the court may remove him from the case and afford him no further standing in the case or in any subsequent proceeding regarding the child or youth until such time as paternity is established by formal acknowledgment or adjudication in a court of competent jurisdiction.

- (e) At the preliminary hearing held in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, the parents or guardians shall be given an opportunity to provide names and contact information for any person, including a person related by blood or marriage, who may be available as a placement resource. No later than twenty-four hours after the preliminary hearing, the Department of Children and Families shall provide written notice in clear and simple language to the persons identified in accordance with this section. Such notice shall include (1) notice of the rights of grandparents in accordance with subsection (c) of this section; (2) an explanation of the process for having the child or youth placed with the relative; and (3) an explanation of the consequences for failing to contact the department to pursue placement.
- [(e)] (f) If any parent or guardian fails, after service of such order, to appear at the preliminary hearing, the court may enter or sustain an order of temporary custody.
 - [(f)] (g) Upon request, or upon its own motion, the court shall schedule a hearing on the order for temporary custody or the order to show cause to be held not later than ten days after the date of the preliminary hearing. Such hearing shall be held on consecutive days except for compelling circumstances or at the request of the parent or guardian.
- [(g)] (h) At a contested hearing on the order for temporary custody or order to appear, credible hearsay evidence regarding statements of

the child or youth made to a mandated reporter or to a parent may be offered by the parties and admitted by the court upon a finding that the statement is reliable and trustworthy and that admission of such statement is reasonably necessary. A signed statement executed by a mandated reporter under oath may be admitted by the court without the need for the mandated reporter to appear and testify unless called by a respondent or the child, provided the statement: (1) Was provided at the preliminary hearing and promptly upon request to any counsel appearing after the preliminary hearing; (2) reasonably describes the qualifications of the reporter and the nature of his contact with the child; and (3) contains only the direct observations of the reporter, and statements made to the reporter that would be admissible if the reporter were to testify to them in court and any opinions reasonably based thereupon. If a respondent or the child gives notice at the preliminary hearing that he intends to cross-examine the reporter, the person filing the petition shall make the reporter available for such examination at the contested hearing.

(i) At the contested hearing held in accordance with subsection (h) of this section, if the child or youth is not placed with a relative, the Department of Children and Families shall file, in writing with the clerk of the court, a description of the efforts made to place the child or youth with a relative and an explanation of the reasons the child or youth is not placed with a relative.

[(h)] (j) If any parent or guardian fails, after due notice of the hearing scheduled pursuant to subsection [(g)] (h) of this section and without good cause, to appear at the scheduled date for a contested hearing on the order of temporary custody or order to appear, the court may enter or sustain an order of temporary custody.

[(i)] (k) When a petition is filed in said court for the commitment of a child or youth, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall make a thorough investigation of the case and shall cause to be made a thorough physical and mental examination of the child or youth if requested by the court. The court after hearing may also order a

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thorough physical or mental examination, or both, of a parent or guardian whose competency or ability to care for a child or youth before the court is at issue. The expenses incurred in making such physical and mental examinations shall be paid as costs of commitment are paid.

[(j)] (1) Upon finding and adjudging that any child or youth is uncared-for, neglected or dependent, the court may commit such child or youth to the Commissioner of Children and Families. Such commitment shall remain in effect until further order of the court, except that such commitment may be revoked or parental rights terminated at any time by the court, or the court may vest such child's or youth's care and personal custody in any private or public agency that is permitted by law to care for neglected, uncared-for or dependent children or youths or with any person or persons found to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the court. The court shall order specific steps that the parent must take to facilitate the return of the child or youth to the custody of such parent. The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child or youth for the duration of the commitment, provided the child or youth has not reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child or youth in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, provided such child or youth has not reached the age of twenty-one years, by consent of such youth, or until another guardian has been legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the care of such child or youth, such other public or private agency or individual shall be the guardian of such child or youth until such child or youth has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child or youth in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, until such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one years or until another guardian has been legally appointed. The commissioner may place any child or youth so committed to the commissioner in a suitable foster home or in the home of a person related by blood to such child or youth or in a licensed child-caring

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institution or in the care and custody of any accredited, licensed or approved child-caring agency, within or without the state, provided a child shall not be placed outside the state except for good cause and unless the parents or guardian of such child are notified in advance of such placement and given an opportunity to be heard, or in a receiving home maintained and operated by the Commissioner of Children and Families. In placing such child or youth, the commissioner shall, if possible, select a home, agency, institution or person of like religious faith to that of a parent of such child or youth, if such faith is known or may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided such home conforms to the standards of said commissioner and the commissioner shall, when placing siblings, if possible, place such children together. If the child or youth has not previously been placed in the care of the Department of Children and Families pursuant to an order of temporary custody, and the court enters an order of commitment in accordance with this subsection, the parents shall be given an opportunity to provide the name and contact information for any person, including a person related by blood or marriage, who may be available as a placement resource and the Department of Children and Families shall provide written notice in clear and simple language to the persons identified in accordance with this section no later than twenty-four hours after the issuance of an order of commitment. Such notice shall include (1) notice of the rights of grandparents in accordance with subsection (c) of this section; (2) an explanation of the process for having the child or youth placed with the relative; and (3) an explanation of the consequences for failing to contact the department to pursue placement. If the child or youth is not placed with a relative by the seventh day after the issuance of the order of commitment, the Department of Children and Families shall file, in writing with the clerk of the court, a description of the efforts made to place the child or youth with a relative and an explanation of the reasons the child or youth is not placed with a relative. As an alternative to commitment, the court may place the child or youth in the custody of the parent or guardian with protective supervision by the Commissioner of Children and Families subject to conditions

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established by the court. Upon the issuance of an order committing the child or youth to the Commissioner of Children and Families, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such order, the court shall determine whether the Department of Children and Families made reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her parents or guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the child's or youth's best interests, including the child's or youth's health and safety.

[(k)] (m) (1) Nine months after placement of the child or youth in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement, or removal of a child or youth pursuant to section 17a-101g or an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, whichever is earlier, the commissioner shall file a motion for review of a permanency plan. Nine months after a permanency plan has been approved by the court pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall file a motion for review of the permanency plan. Any party seeking to oppose the commissioner's permanency plan shall file a motion in opposition not later than thirty days after the filing of the commissioner's motion for review of the permanency plan, which motion shall include the reason therefor. A permanency hearing on any motion for review of the permanency plan shall be held not later than ninety days after the filing of such motion. The court shall hold evidentiary hearings in connection with any contested motion for review of the permanency plan. The commissioner shall have the burden of proving that the proposed permanency plan is in the best interests of the child or youth. After the initial permanency hearing, subsequent permanency hearings shall be held not less frequently than every twelve months while the child or youth remains in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families. The court shall provide notice to the child or youth, and the parent or guardian of such child or youth of the time and place of the court hearing on any such motion not less than fourteen days prior to such hearing.

416 (2) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions

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of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall approve a permanency plan that is in the best interests of the child or youth and takes into consideration the child's or youth's need for permanency. The child's or youth's health and safety shall be of paramount concern in formulating such plan. Such permanency plan may include the goal of (A) revocation of commitment and reunification of the child or youth with the parent or guardian, with or without protective supervision; (B) transfer of guardianship; (C) long-term foster care with a relative licensed as a foster parent or certified as a relative caregiver; (D) adoption and filing of termination of parental rights; or (E) such other planned permanent living arrangement ordered by the court, provided the Commissioner of Children and Families has documented a compelling reason why it would not be in the best interest of the child or youth for the permanency plan to include the goals in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision. Such other planned permanent living arrangement may include, but not be limited to, placement of a child or youth in an independent living program or long term foster care with an identified foster parent.

(3) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall review the status of the child, the progress being made to implement the permanency plan, determine a timetable for attaining the permanency plan, determine the services to be provided to the parent if the court approves a permanency plan of reunification and the timetable for such services, and determine whether the commissioner has made reasonable efforts to achieve the permanency plan. The court may revoke commitment if a cause for commitment no longer exists and it is in the best interests of the child or youth.

(4) If the court approves the permanency plan of adoption: (A) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall file a petition for termination of parental rights not later than sixty days after such approval if such petition has not previously been filed; (B) the commissioner may conduct a thorough adoption assessment and child-specific recruitment; and (C) the court may order that the child

be photo-listed within thirty days if the court determines that such photo-listing is in the best interest of the child. As used in this subdivision, "thorough adoption assessment" means conducting and documenting face-to-face interviews with the child, foster care providers and other significant parties and "child specific recruitment" means recruiting an adoptive placement targeted to meet the individual needs of the specific child, including, but not limited to, use of the media, use of photo-listing services and any other in-state or out-of-state resources that may be used to meet the specific needs of the child, unless there are extenuating circumstances that indicate that such efforts are not in the best interest of the child.

[(l)] (n) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall pay directly to the person or persons furnishing goods or services determined by said commissioner to be necessary for the care and maintenance of such child or youth the reasonable expense thereof, payment to be made at intervals determined by said commissioner; and the Comptroller shall draw his or her order on the Treasurer, from time to time, for such part of the appropriation for care of committed children or youths as may be needed in order to enable the commissioner to make such payments. The commissioner shall include in the department's annual budget a sum estimated to be sufficient to carry out the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding that any such child or youth has income or estate, the commissioner may pay the cost of care and maintenance of such child or youth. The commissioner may bill to and collect from the person in charge of the estate of any child or youth aided under this chapter, or the payee of such child's or youth's income, the total amount expended for care of such child or youth or such portion thereof as any such estate or payee is able to reimburse, provided the commissioner shall not collect from such estate or payee any reimbursement for the cost of care or other expenditures made on behalf of such child or youth from (1) the proceeds of any cause of action received by such child or youth; (2) any lottery proceeds due to such child or youth; (3) any inheritance due to such child or youth; (4) any payment due to such child or youth from a

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trust other than a trust created pursuant to 42 USC 1396p, as amended from time to time; or (5) the decedent estate of such child or youth.

[(m)] (o) The commissioner, a parent or the child's attorney may file a motion to revoke a commitment, and, upon finding that cause for commitment no longer exists, and that such revocation is in the best interests of such child or youth, the court may revoke the commitment of such child or youth. No such motion shall be filed more often than once every six months.

[(n)] (p) Upon service on the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child or youth of any order issued by the court pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) and [(j)] (l) of this section, the child or youth concerned shall be surrendered to the person serving the order who shall forthwith deliver the child or youth to the person, agency, department or institution awarded custody in the order. Upon refusal of the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child or youth to surrender the child or youth as provided in the order, the court may cause a warrant to be issued charging the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child or youth with contempt of court. If the person arrested is found in contempt of court, the court may order such person confined until the person complies with the order, but for not more than six months, or may fine such person not more than five hundred dollars, or both.

[(o)] (q) A foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver shall receive notice and have the right to be heard for the purposes of this section in Superior Court in any proceeding concerning a foster child living with such foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver. A foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver who has cared for a child or youth shall have the right to be heard and comment on the best interests of such child or youth in any proceeding under this section which is brought not more than one year after the last day the foster parent, prospective adoptive parent or relative caregiver provided such care.

[(p)] (r) Upon motion of any sibling of any child committed to the Department of Children and Families pursuant to this section, such sibling shall have the right to be heard concerning visitation with, and placement of, any such child. In awarding any visitation or modifying any placement, the court shall be guided by the best interests of all siblings affected by such determination.

- [(q)] (s) The provisions of section 17a-152, regarding placement of a child from another state, and section 17a-175, regarding the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, shall apply to placements pursuant to this section.
- Sec. 5. Section 17a-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):
 - (a) The department shall plan, create, develop, operate or arrange for, administer and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated state-wide program of services, including preventive services, for children and youths whose behavior does not conform to the law or to acceptable community standards, or who are mentally ill, including deaf and hearing impaired children and youths who are mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, substance abusers, delinquent, abused, neglected or uncared for, including all children and youths who are or may be committed to it by any court, and all children and youths voluntarily admitted to, or remaining voluntarily under the supervision of, the commissioner for services of any kind. Services shall not be denied to any such child or youth solely because of other complicating or multiple disabilities. The department shall work in cooperation with other child-serving agencies and organizations to provide or arrange for preventive programs, including, but not limited to, teenage pregnancy and youth suicide prevention, for children and youths and their families. The program shall provide services and placements that are clinically indicated and appropriate to the needs of the child or youth. In furtherance of this purpose, the department shall: (1) Maintain the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and other appropriate facilities exclusively for delinquents; (2) develop a

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comprehensive program for prevention of problems of children and youths and provide a flexible, innovative and effective program for the placement, care and treatment of children and youths committed by any court to the department, transferred to the department by other departments, or voluntarily admitted to the department; (3) provide appropriate services to families of children and youths as needed to achieve the purposes of sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, as amended by this act, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, and 17a-51; (4) establish incentive paid work programs for children and youths under the care of the department and the rates to be paid such children and youths for work done in such programs and may provide allowances to children and youths in the custody of the department; (5) be responsible to collect, interpret and publish statistics relating to children and youths within the department; (6) conduct studies of any program, service or facility developed, operated, contracted for or supported by the department in order to evaluate its effectiveness; (7) establish staff development and other training and educational programs designed to improve the quality of departmental services and programs, provided no social worker trainee shall be assigned a case load prior to completing training, and may establish educational or training programs for children, youths, parents or other interested persons on any matter related to the promotion of the well-being of children, or the prevention of mental illness, emotional disturbance, delinquency and other disabilities in children and youths; (8) develop and implement aftercare and follow-up services appropriate to the needs of any child or youth under the care of the department; (9) establish a case audit unit to monitor each area office's compliance with regulations and procedures; (10) develop and maintain a database listing available community service programs funded by the department; (11) provide outreach and assistance to persons caring for children whose parents are unable to do so by informing such persons of programs and benefits for which they may be eligible; and (12) collect data sufficient to identify the housing needs of children served by the department and share such data with the Department of Economic and Community Development.

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(b) The department shall prepare and submit biennially to the General Assembly a five-year master plan. The master plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) The long-range goals and the current level of attainment of such goals of the department; (2) a detailed description of the types and amounts of services presently provided to the department's clients; (3) a detailed forecast of the service needs of current and projected target populations; (4) detailed cost projections for alternate means of meeting projected needs; (5) funding priorities for each of the five years included in the plan and specific plans indicating how the funds are to be used; (6) a written plan for the prevention of child abuse and neglect; (7) a comprehensive mental health plan for children and adolescents, including children with complicating or multiple disabilities; (8) a comprehensive plan for children and youths who are substance abusers, developed in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services pursuant to the provisions of sections 19a-2a and 19a-7; and (9) an overall assessment of the adequacy of children's services in Connecticut. The plan shall be prepared within existing funds appropriated to the department.]

(b) (1) The department, with the assistance of the State Advisory Council on Children and Families, and in consultation with representatives of the children and families served by the department, providers of services to children and families, advocates, and others interested in the well-being of children and families in this state, shall develop and regularly update a single, comprehensive strategic plan for meeting the needs of children and families served by the department. In developing and updating the strategic plan, the department shall identify and define agency goals and indicators of progress, including benchmarks, in achieving such goals. The strategic plan shall include, but not be limited to: (A) The department's mission statement; (B) the expected results for the department and each of its mandated areas of responsibility; (C) a schedule of action steps and a time frame for achieving such results and fulfilling the department's mission that includes strategies for working with other state agencies

620 to leverage resources and coordinate service delivery; (D) priorities for

- 621 services and estimates of the funding and other resources necessary to
- 622 <u>carry them out; (E) standards for programs and services that are based</u>
- on research-based best practices, when available; and (F) relevant
- 624 <u>measures of performance.</u>
- 625 (2) The department shall begin the strategic planning process on
- 626 July 1, 2008. The department shall hold regional meetings on the plan
- 627 to ensure public input and shall post the plan and the plan's updates
- and progress reports on the department's web site. The department
- 629 shall submit the strategic plan to the State Advisory Council on
- 630 Children and Families for review and comment prior to its final
- 631 <u>submission to the General Assembly and the Governor. On or before</u>
- 632 July 1, 2009, the department shall submit the strategic plan, in
- 633 accordance with section 11-4a, to the General Assembly and the
- 634 Governor.
- 635 (3) The commissioner shall track and report on progress in
- 636 achieving the strategic plan's goals not later than October 1, 2009, and
- 637 guarterly thereafter, to said State Advisory Council. The commissioner
- shall submit a status report on progress in achieving the results in the
- 639 strategic plan, in accordance with section 11-4a, not later than July 1,
- 640 2010, and annually thereafter to the General Assembly and the
- 641 Governor.
- (c) The department shall prepare a plan to keep children who are
- 643 convicted as delinquent and will be committed to the Department of
- 644 Children and Families and placed in the Connecticut Juvenile Training
- 645 School in such facility for at least one year after their referral to the
- department, which plan shall include provisions for development of a
- 647 comprehensive approach to juvenile rehabilitation.
- Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 17a-6 of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July
- 650 1, 2008):
- 651 (b) Administer in a coordinated and integrated manner all

652 institutions and facilities which are or may come under the jurisdiction 653 of the department and [may] shall appoint advisory groups for any 654 such institution or facility.

- Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2008) (a) The facilities that come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Children and Families, as enumerated in section 17a-32 of the general statutes, shall submit an annual report to the State Advisory Council on Children and Families and to their respective advisory groups, established pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17a-6 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Aggregate profiles of the residents; (2) a description of and update on major initiatives; (3) key outcome indicators and results; (4) costs associated with operating the facility; and (5) a description of educational, vocational and literacy programs, and behavioral, treatment and other services available to the residents and their outcomes. Each report submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be posted on the department's web site.
- (b) Such advisory groups shall respond to their facility's annual report, as required by subsection (a) of this section, and provide any recommendations for improvement or enhancement that they deem necessary.
- 673 (c) The Department of Children and Families shall serve as 674 administrative staff of such advisory groups.
- Sec. 8. Section 17a-27f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):
- [(a) The Department of Children and Families shall establish a public safety committee in the municipality in which the Connecticut Juvenile Training School is located. The committee shall be composed of the superintendent of said school and representatives appointed by the chief elected official of the municipality. The committee shall meet not less than quarterly to review safety and security issues which affect the host municipality.]

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[(b)] At the time the Connecticut Juvenile Training School becomes operational, the Department of Children and Families shall ensure that a community security and alert system [shall be] is functional.

- Sec. 9. Section 46a-13*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):
- (a) The Child Advocate shall:

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- 690 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to children by state agencies 691 and those entities that provide services to children through funds 692 provided by the state;
 - (2) Review periodically the procedures established by any state agency providing services to children to carry out the provisions of sections 46a-13k to 46a-13q, inclusive, with a view toward the rights of the children and recommend revisions to such procedures;
 - (3) Review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state or municipal agency providing services to children and of any entity that provides services to children through funds provided by the state, make appropriate referrals and investigate those where the Child Advocate determines that a child or family may be in need of assistance from the Child Advocate or that a systemic issue in the state's provision of services to children is raised by the complaint;
 - (4) Pursuant to an investigation, provide assistance to a child or family who the Child Advocate determines is in need of such assistance including, but not limited to, advocating with an agency, provider or others on behalf of the best interests of the child;
 - (5) Periodically review the facilities and procedures of any and all institutions or residences, public or private, where a juvenile has been placed by any agency or department;
- 711 (6) Recommend changes in state policies concerning children 712 including changes in the system of providing juvenile justice, child 713 care, foster care and treatment;

(7) Take all possible action including, but not limited to, conducting programs of public education, undertaking legislative advocacy and making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action, in order to secure and ensure the legal, civil and special rights of children who reside in this state;

- 719 (8) Provide training and technical assistance to attorneys 720 representing children and guardians ad litem appointed by the 721 Superior Court;
- 722 (9) Periodically review the number of special needs children in any 723 foster care or permanent care facility and recommend changes in the 724 policies and procedures for the placement of such children;
- 725 (10) Serve or designate a person to serve as a member of the child 726 fatality review panel established in subsection (b) of this section; and
- 727 (11) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the 728 Office of the Child Advocate, the purpose of the office and procedures 729 to contact the office.
 - (b) There is established a child fatality review panel composed of thirteen permanent members as follows: The Child Advocate, or a designee; the Commissioners of Children and Families, Public Health and Public Safety, or their designees; the Chief Medical Examiner, or a designee; the Chief State's Attorney, or a designee; a pediatrician, appointed by the Governor; a representative of law enforcement, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; an attorney, appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; a social work professional, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; a representative of a community service group appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; a psychologist, appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; and an injury prevention representative, appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives. A majority of the panel may select not more than three additional temporary members with particular expertise or interest to serve on the panel. Such temporary members shall have the

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same duties and powers as the permanent members of the panel. The chairperson shall be elected from among the panel's permanent members. The panel shall, to the greatest extent possible, reflect the ethnic, cultural and geographic diversity of the state.

- (c) The panel shall review the circumstances of the death of a child placed in out-of-home care or whose death was due to unexpected or unexplained causes to facilitate development of prevention strategies to address identified trends and patterns of risk and to improve coordination of services for children and families in the state. Members of the panel shall not be compensated for their services, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
- (d) On or before January 1, 2000, and annually thereafter, the panel shall issue an annual report which shall include its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on its review of child fatalities for the preceding year.
- (e) Upon request of two-thirds of the members of the panel and within available appropriations, the Governor, the General Assembly or at the Child Advocate's discretion, the Child Advocate shall conduct an in-depth investigation and review and issue a report with recommendations on the death or critical incident of a child. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the General Assembly and the commissioner of any state agency cited in the report and shall be made available to the general public.
- (f) Any state agency cited in a report issued by the Office of the Child Advocate, pursuant to the Child Advocate's responsibilities under this section, shall submit a written response to the report and recommendations made in the report to the Office of the Child Advocate and, in the case of a report pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, to the child fatality review panel not later than sixty days after the receipt of such report and recommendations. The agency shall also submit a copy of such response to the Governor and the General

778 Assembly. The response shall include, but not be limited to: (1)

- 779 Proposed corrective actions to address identified problems; and (2) a
- 780 <u>time frame for implementation of improvements.</u>
- [(f)] (g) The Chief Medical Examiner shall provide timely notice to the Child Advocate and to the chairperson of the child fatality review panel of the death of any child that is to be investigated pursuant to section 19a-406.
- [(g)] (h) Any agency having responsibility for the custody or care of children shall provide timely notice to the Child Advocate and the chairperson of the child fatality review panel of the death of a child or a critical incident involving a child in its custody or care.
- Sec. 10. Section 17a-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):
 - (a) There shall be a State Advisory Council on Children and Families which shall consist of seventeen members appointed by the Governor, including at least five persons who are child care professionals, two persons aged eighteen to twenty-five, inclusive, served by the Department of Children and Families, one child psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this state and at least one attorney who has expertise in legal issues related to children and youth. The balance of the advisory council shall be representative of young persons, parents and others interested in the delivery of services to children and youths, including child protection, behavioral health, juvenile justice and prevention services. No less than fifty per cent of the council's members shall be parents or family members of children who have received, or are receiving, behavioral health services, child welfare services or juvenile services and no more than half the members of the council shall be persons who receive income from a private practice or any public or private agency that delivers mental health, substance abuse, child abuse prevention and treatment, child welfare services or juvenile services. Members of the council shall serve without compensation, except for necessary expenses incurred in

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the performance of their duties. The department shall provide the council with funding to facilitate the participation of those members representing families and youth, as well as for other administrative support services. Members shall serve on the council for terms of two years each and no member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms. The commissioner shall be an ex-officio member of the council without vote and shall attend its meetings. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. The council shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson to act in the chairperson's absence.

- (b) The council shall meet quarterly, and more often upon the call of the chair or a majority of the members. The council's meetings shall be held at locations that facilitate participation by members of the public, and its agenda and minutes shall be posted on the department's web site. A majority of the members in office, but not less than six members, shall constitute a quorum. The council shall have complete access to all records of the institutions and facilities of the department in furtherance of its duties, while at all times protecting the right of privacy of all individuals involved, as provided in section 17a-28 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes.
- (c) The duties of the council shall be to: (1) Recommend to the commissioner programs, legislation or other matters which will improve services for children and youths, including behavioral health services; (2) annually review and advise the commissioner regarding the proposed budget; (3) interpret to the community at large the policies, duties and programs of the department; [and] (4) issue any reports it deems necessary to the Governor and the Commissioner of Children and Families; (5) establish a committee, in accordance with this subdivision, to fulfill the state's mental health planning and advisory council responsibilities under Public Laws 99-660, 101-639 and 102-321. The committee shall be appointed by the chairperson of the council and shall consist of individuals who are knowledgeable about issues relative to children and youth in need of behavioral health

services and family supports, including, but not limited to, parents and 844 845

- guardians of children and youth with behavioral health needs; (6)
- assist in the development of and review and comment on the strategic 846
- 847 plan developed by the department, pursuant to subsection (b) of
- 848 section 17a-3, as amended by this act; (7) receive on a quarterly basis
- 849 from the commissioner a status report on the department's progress in
- 850 carrying out the strategic plan; (8) independently monitor the
- 851 department's progress in achieving its goals as expressed in the
- 852 strategic plan; and (9) offer assistance and provide an outside
- 853 perspective to the department so that it may be able to achieve the
- 854 goals expressed in the strategic plan.
- 855 Sec. 11. Section 17a-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 856 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):
- 857 As used in sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, as amended by this
- 858 act, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, 17a-127 and 46b-120 of the 2008
- 859 supplement to the general statutes, unless otherwise provided in said
- 860 sections:
- 861 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Children and
- 862 Families;
- 863 (2) "Council" means the State Advisory Council on Children and
- 864 Families;
- 865 [(3) "Advisory committee" means the Children's Behavioral Health
- Advisory Committee to the council;] 866
- 867 [(4)] (3) "Department" means the Department of Children and
- 868 Families:
- 869 [(5)] (4) "Child" means any person under sixteen years of age;
- 870 [(6)] (5) "Youth" means any person at least sixteen years of age and
- 871 under nineteen years of age;
- 872 [(7)] (6) "Delinquent child" shall have the meaning ascribed thereto

in section 46b-120 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes;

[(8)] (7) "Child or youth with behavioral health needs" means a child or youth who is suffering from one or more mental disorders as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders";

[(9)] (8) "Individual service plan" means a written plan to access specialized, coordinated and integrated care for a child or youth with complex behavioral health service needs that is designed to meet the needs of the child or youth and his or her family and may include, when appropriate (A) an assessment of the individual needs of the child or youth, (B) an identification of service needs, (C) an identification of services that are currently being provided, (D) an identification of opportunities for full participation by parents or emancipated minors, (E) a reintegration plan when an out-of-home placement is made or recommended, (F) an identification of criteria for evaluating the effectiveness and appropriateness of such plan, and (G) coordination of the individual service plan with any educational services provided to the child or youth. The plan shall be subject to review at least every six months or upon reasonable request by the parent based on a changed circumstance, and be approved, in writing, by the parents, guardian of a child or youth and emancipated minors;

[(10)] (9) "Family" means a child or youth with behavioral health needs and (A) one or more biological or adoptive parents, except for a parent whose parental rights have been terminated, (B) one or more persons to whom legal custody or guardianship has been given, or (C) one or more adults who have a primary responsibility for providing continuous care to such child or youth;

[(11)] (10) "Parent" means a biological or adoptive parent, except a parent whose parental rights have been terminated;

[(12)] (11) "Guardian" means a person who has a judicially created relationship between a child or youth and such person that is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer to

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905 such person of the following parental rights with respect to the child or 906 youth: (A) The obligation of care and control; (B) the authority to make 907 major decisions affecting the child's or youth's welfare, including, but 908 not limited to, consent determinations regarding marriage, enlistment 909 in the armed forces and major medical, psychiatric or surgical 910 treatment; (C) the obligation of protection of the child or youth; (D) the 911 obligation to provide access to education; and (E) custody of the child 912 or youth;

- 913 emotional disturbance" [(13)](12)"Serious and "seriously 914 emotionally disturbed" means, with regard to a child or youth, that the 915 child or youth (A) has a range of diagnosable mental, behavioral or 916 emotional disorders of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria 917 specified in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric 918 Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", 919 and (B) exhibits behaviors that substantially interfere with or limit the 920 child's or youth's ability to function in the family, school or community and are not a temporary response to a stressful situation;
- 922 [(14)] (13) "Child or youth with complex behavioral health service 923 needs" means a child or youth with behavioral health needs who needs specialized, coordinated behavioral health services; 924
 - [(15)] (14) "Transition services" means services in the areas of education, employment, housing and community living designed to assist a youth with a serious emotional disturbance who is transitioning into adulthood; and
 - [(16)] (15) "Community collaborative" means a local consortium of public and private health care providers, parents and guardians of children with behavioral health needs and service and education agencies that have organized to develop coordinated comprehensive community resources for children or youths with complex behavioral health service needs and their families in accordance with principles and goals of Connecticut Community KidCare.
- 936 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 17a-22b of the general statutes is

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937 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 938 1, 2008):

- (a) Each community collaborative shall, within available appropriations, (1) complete a local needs assessment which shall include objectives and performance measures, (2) specify the number of children and youths requiring behavioral health services, and (3) specify the number of children and youths actually receiving community-based and residential services and the type and frequency of such services. [, and (4) complete an annual self-evaluation process and a review of discharge summaries.] Each community collaborative shall submit its local needs assessment to the Commissioner of Children and Families and the Commissioner of Social Services.
- 949 Sec. 13. Section 17a-145 of the 2008 supplement to the general 950 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof 951 (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

No person or entity shall care for or board a child without a license obtained from the Commissioner of Children and Families, except: (1) When a child has been placed by a person or entity holding a license from the commissioner; (2) any residential educational institution exempted by the state Board of Education under the provisions of section 17a-152; (3) residential facilities licensed by the Department of Developmental Services pursuant to section 17a-227 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes; (4) facilities providing child day care services, as defined in section 19a-77 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes; or (5) any home that houses students participating in a program described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (8) of section 10a-29. The person or entity seeking a child-care facility license shall file with the commissioner an application for a license, in such form as the commissioner furnishes, stating the location where it is proposed to care for such child, the number of children to be cared for, in the case of a corporation, the purpose of the corporation and the names of its chief officers and of the actual person responsible for the child. The Commissioner of Children and Families is authorized to fix the

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maximum number of children to be boarded and cared for in any such home or institution or by any person or entity licensed by the commissioner. [Each person or entity holding a license under the provisions of this section shall file annually, with the commissioner, a report stating the number of children received and removed during the year, the number of deaths and the causes of death, the average cost of support per capita and such other data as the commissioner may prescribe.] If the population served at any facility, institution or home operated by any person or entity licensed under this section changes after such license is issued, such person or entity shall file a new license application with the commissioner, and the commissioner shall notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in which the facility is located of such new license application, except that no confidential client information may be disclosed.

Sec. 14. Section 17a-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

(a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish a school district within the Department of Children and Families, for the education or assistance of any child or youth who resides in or receives day treatment at any state-operated institution or facility within that department and whose needs require that his education be provided within the institution in which he resides or at which he receives day treatment. The school district shall be known as State of Connecticut-Unified School District #2. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall administer, coordinate and control the operations of the school district and shall be responsible for the overall supervision and direction of all courses and activities of the school district and shall establish such vocational and academic education, research and statistics, training and development services and programs as he considers necessary or advisable in the best interests of the persons benefiting therefrom. The commissioner or his designee shall be the superintendent of said district and shall act in accordance with the applicable provisions of section 10-157 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes.

(b) The superintendent of the school district shall have the power to (1) establish and maintain within the Department of Children and Families such schools of different grades as he may from time to time require and deem necessary; (2) establish and maintain within the department such school libraries as may from time to time be required in connection with the educational courses, services and programs authorized by this section; (3) purchase, receive, hold and convey personal property for school purposes and equip and supply such schools with necessary furniture and other appendages; (4) make agreements and regulations for the establishing and conducting of the district's schools and employ and dismiss, in accordance with the applicable provisions of section 10-151, such teachers as are necessary to carry out the intent of this section and to pay their salaries; (5) receive any federal funds or aid made available to the state for such programs and shall be eligible for and may receive any other funds or aid whether private, state or otherwise, to be used for the purposes of this section.

(c) The superintendent of the school district may cooperate with the federal government in carrying out the purposes of any federal law pertaining to the education of students within his school district, and may adopt such methods of administration as are found by the federal government to be necessary, and may comply with such conditions as may be necessary to secure the full benefit of all such federal funds available.

[(d) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall annually evaluate the progress and accomplishments of the school district established in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. Said commissioner shall submit annual evaluation reports to the Commissioner of Education in order to apprise the State Board of Education of the true condition, progress and needs of said school district. Said commissioner shall follow procedures adopted by the Commissioner of Education in preparation of annual evaluation reports.]

Sec. 15. Section 17a-22c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

- 1039 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the 1040 Commissioner of Social Services shall establish performance measures 1041 in the areas of finance, administration, utilization, client satisfaction, 1042 quality and access for Connecticut Community KidCare.
 - (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop and implement, within available appropriations, culturally appropriate and competency-based curricula including best practices for the care of children and youths with, or at risk of, behavioral health needs and offer training to all willing persons involved in Connecticut Community KidCare, including, but not limited to, employees in education and child care and appropriate employees within the judicial system.
- 1051 I(c) The Commissioners of Children and Families and Social 1052 Services shall, within available appropriations, design and conduct a 1053 five-year independent longitudinal evaluation with evaluation goals 1054 and methods utilizing an independent evaluator. The evaluation shall 1055 assess changes in outcomes for individual children, youths and 1056 families, evaluate the effectiveness of the overall initiative in the early 1057 phases to guide future expansion of Connecticut Community KidCare 1058 and examine benefits, costs and cost avoidance achieved by it. Such 1059 evaluation may include, but is not limited to, the following: (1) 1060 Utilization of out-of-home placements; (2) adherence to system of care principles; (3) school attendance; (4) delinquency recidivism rates; (5) 1061 1062 satisfaction of families and children and youths with Connecticut 1063 Community KidCare as assessed through client satisfaction surveys; 1064 (6) coordination of Connecticut Community KidCare with the juvenile 1065 justice, child protection, adult behavioral health and education 1066 systems; and (7) the quality of transition services.]
- Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the Chief Court Administrator shall

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1069 establish, within available appropriations, a pilot program to integrate 1070 the initial written plan for care, treatment and permanent placement of 1071 children and youth required under section 17a-15 of the general 1072 statutes, with the specific steps for family reunification ordered by the 1073 court pursuant to subsection (j) of section 46b-129 of the 2008 1074 supplement to the general statutes. The Commissioner of Children and 1075 Families, in consultation with said Chief Court Administrator, shall 1076 designate one Department of Children and Families area office to 1077 participate in the pilot program. The pilot program shall terminate not 1078 later than October 1, 2010.

- (b) A court services officer of the court participating in the pilot program shall be responsible for convening a meeting to promptly develop the initial treatment plan and proposed specific steps for the child and family, and shall invite the parents or guardians, the child or youth, when appropriate, and their respective attorneys, department staff responsible for developing and implementing treatment plans, and individuals involved in assessing needs and providing services for the child and family. Whenever possible, such meetings shall be convened at times and held in places that maximize the likelihood that children, youth and their parents or guardians will be able to attend.
- 1089 (c) Following the meeting, the court shall order specific steps that 1090 the parent must take to facilitate the return of the child or youth to the 1091 custody of such parent. In addition to satisfying the requirements set 1092 forth in subsection (a) of section 17a-15 of the general statutes for the 1093 Department of Children and Families' written plan for the care, 1094 treatment and permanent placement of every child under the 1095 commissioner's supervision, the plan shall also include, but not be limited to: (1) Assessment of the health and welfare of the child or 1096 1097 youth; (2) an evaluation of the problems and strengths of each child or 1098 youth; (3) the proposed plan of treatment services and temporary 1099 placement, and a goal for permanent placement of the child or youth; 1100 and (4) specific planning goals and clear, comprehensive, time-1101 sensitive action steps for educational and behavioral health needs.

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1102 (d) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the Chief Court 1103 Administrator shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the 1104 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General 1105 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and 1106 judiciary and the select committee of the General Assembly having 1107 cognizance of matters relating to children not later than February 1, 1108 2011, concerning the results of such pilot program. The report shall 1109 also include a recommendation on whether the program should be 1110 expanded state-wide.

- Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 17a-450a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):
- 1114 (b) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall 1115 constitute a successor department to the addiction services component 1116 of the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services. Whenever 1117 the words "Commissioner of Public Health and Addiction Services" are 1118 used or referred to in the following general statutes, the words 1119 "Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services" shall be 1120 substituted in lieu thereof and whenever the words "Department of 1121 Public Health and Addiction Services" are used or referred to in the 1122 following general statutes, the words "Department of Mental Health 1123 and Addiction Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 4a-12 of 1124 the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, [17a-3,] 17a-465a, 17a-670 1125 to 17a-676, inclusive, 17a-678 to 17a-682, inclusive, 17a-684 to 17a-687, 1126 inclusive, 17a-691, 17a-694, 17a-710, 17a-712, 17a-713 19a-89c, 20-74o, 1127 20-74p, 20-74q, 21a-274a, 54-36i and 54-56g of the 2008 supplement to 1128 the general statutes.
- Sec. 18. Subsection (b) of section 17a-210c of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):
- 1132 (b) Whenever the term "Commissioner of Mental Retardation" is 1133 used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the

1134 term "Commissioner of Developmental Services" shall be substituted 1135 in lieu thereof: 4-5 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 4b-3 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 4b-23 of the 2008 1136 1137 supplement to the general statutes, 8-3e of the 2008 supplement to the 1138 general statutes, 10-76i of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 1139 [17a-4a,] 17a-22a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-1140 210 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-212, 17a-212a of 1141 the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-214 of the 2008 1142 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-215a of the 2008 supplement to 1143 the general statutes, 17a-215b of the 2008 supplement to the general 1144 statutes, 17a-217a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-1145 218 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-218a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-225 of the 2008 supplement to 1146 1147 the general statutes, 17a-226 of the 2008 supplement to the general 1148 statutes, 17a-227a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-1149 228 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-229 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-230 of the 2008 supplement to 1150 1151 the general statutes, 17a-232 of the 2008 supplement to the general 1152 statutes, 17a-238 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-1153 240 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-241 of the 2008 1154 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-242 of the 2008 supplement to 1155 the general statutes, 17a-244 of the 2008 supplement to the general 1156 statutes, 17a-246 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-1157 247a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-248 of the 2008 1158 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-270 of the 2008 supplement to 1159 the general statutes, 17a-272 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-273 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-1160 1161 274 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-276 of the 2008 1162 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-277 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-281 of the 2008 supplement to the general 1163 1164 statutes, 17a-282 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-1165 582 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-584 of the 2008 1166 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-586 of the 2008 supplement to 1167 the general statutes, 17a-587 of the 2008 supplement to the general 1168 statutes, 17a-588 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-

1169 592 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-593 of the 2008 1170 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-594 of the 2008 supplement to 1171 the general statutes, 17a-596 of the 2008 supplement to the general 1172 statutes, 17a-599 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17b-1173 28a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17b-244 of the 2008 1174 supplement to the general statutes, 17b-244a of the 2008 supplement to 1175 the general statutes, 17b-337 of the 2008 supplement to the general 1176 statutes, 17b-340 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17b-1177 492b of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 19a-24 of the 2008 1178 supplement to the general statutes, 19a-411 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 19a-580d of the 2008 supplement to the general 1179 1180 statutes, 20-14j of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 20-571 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 45a-670 of the 2008 1181 supplement to the general statutes, 45a-674 of the 2008 supplement to 1182 1183 the general statutes, 45a-676 of the 2008 supplement to the general 1184 statutes, 45a-677 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 45a-681 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 45a-682 of the 2008 1185 supplement to the general statutes, 45a-692 of the 2008 supplement to 1186 1187 the general statutes, 46a-11a of the 2008 supplement to the general 1188 statutes, 46a-11c of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 46a-11f of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 54-56d of the 2008 1189 1190 supplement to the general statutes, 54-102g of the 2008 supplement to 1191 the general statutes and 54-102h of the 2008 supplement to the general 1192 statutes.

Sec. 19. Subsection (b) of section 17a-42 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2008):

(b) Under sections 17a-112 and 45a-717, the court may order that a child be photo-listed not later than thirty days after the termination of parental rights as a condition of granting an order of termination of parental rights if the court determines that it is in the best interests of the child. Under subdivision (4) of subsection [(k)] (m) of section 46b-129 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act, the court may order that a child be photo-listed not later than

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thirty days after the approval of a permanency plan for adoption if the court determines that it is in the best interest of the child. The court shall not order that a child twelve years of age or older be photo-listed unless the child consents to such photo-listing.

- Sec. 20. Section 17a-75 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):
- 1209 For the purposes of sections 17a-75 to 17a-83, inclusive, the 1210 following terms shall have the following meanings: "Business day" means Monday through Friday except when a legal holiday falls 1211 1212 thereon; "child" means any person less than sixteen years of age; 1213 "court" means the Superior Court-Juvenile Matters or the Court of 1214 Probate, unless either court is specifically stated; "hospital for mental 1215 illness of children" means any hospital, which provides, in whole or in 1216 part, diagnostic or treatment services for mental disorders of children, 1217 but shall not include any correctional institution of this state; "mental 1218 disorder" means a mental or emotional condition which has substantial 1219 adverse effects on a child's ability to function so as to jeopardize his or 1220 her health, safety or welfare or that of others, and specifically excludes 1221 mental retardation; "parent" means parent or legal guardian, including 1222 any guardian appointed under the provisions of subsection [(i)] (k) of 1223 section 46b-129 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as 1224 amended by this act, or sections 45a-132, 45a-593 to 45a-597, inclusive, 1225 45a-603 to 45a-622, inclusive, 45a-629 to 45a-638, inclusive, 45a-707 to 1226 45a-709, inclusive, 45a-715 to 45a-718, inclusive, 45a-724 to 45a-737, 1227 inclusive, or 45a-743 to 45a-756, inclusive.
- Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 17a-90 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2008):
- 1231 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall furnish 1232 protective services or provide and pay, wholly or in part, for the care 1233 and protection of children other than those committed by the Superior 1234 Court whom the commissioner finds in need of such care and

protection from the state, and such payments shall be made in accordance with the provisions of subsection [(l)] (n) of section 46b-129 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act, provided the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall be responsible for billing and collecting such sums as are determined to be owing and due from the parent of the noncommitted child in accordance with section 4a-12 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes and subsection (b) of section 17b-223.

- Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 17a-111b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2008):
- (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall make reasonable efforts to reunify a parent with a child unless the court (1) determines that such efforts are not required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section or subsection (j) of section 17a-112, or (2) has approved a permanency plan other than reunification pursuant to subsection [(k)] (m) of section 46b-129 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 23. Subsection (j) of section 45a-717 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2008):
 - (j) In the case where termination of parental rights is granted, the guardian of the person or statutory parent shall report to the court within thirty days of the date judgment is entered on a case plan, as defined by the federal Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, as amended from time to time, for the child. At least every three months thereafter, such guardian or statutory parent shall make a report to the court on the implementation of the plan. The court may convene a hearing upon the filing of a report and shall convene a hearing for the purpose of reviewing the plan no more than twelve months from the date judgment is entered or from the date of the last permanency hearing held pursuant to subsection [(k)] (m) of section

46b-129 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes as amended by 1267 1268 this act, if the child or youth is in the care and custody of the 1269 Commissioner of Children and Families, whichever is earlier, and at 1270 least once a year thereafter until such time as any proposed adoption 1271 plan has become finalized. If the Commissioner of Children and 1272 Families is the statutory parent for the child, at such a hearing the 1273 court shall determine whether the department has made reasonable 1274 efforts to achieve the permanency plan.

Sec. 24. Section 46b-130 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

The parents of a minor child for whom care or support of any kind has been provided under the provisions of this chapter shall be liable to reimburse the state for such care or support to the same extent, and under the same terms and conditions, as are the parents of recipients of public assistance. Upon receipt of foster care maintenance payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act by a minor child, the right of support, present, past, and future, from a parent of such child shall, by this section, be assigned to the Commissioner of Children and Families. Referral by the commissioner shall promptly be made to the Child Support Enforcement Unit of the Department of Social Services for pursuit of support for such minor child in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-179 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes. Any child who reimburses the state under the provisions of subsection [(1)] (n) of section 46b-129 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act, for any care or support such child received shall have a right of action to recover such payments from such child's parents.

1294 Sec. 25. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) Sections 17a-4a, 17a-6b, 17a-6c, 17a-21, 17a-91a, 17a-116b and 46b-121m of the general statutes are repealed."

This act shal sections:	l take effect as fol	ws and shall amend the following
Section 1	July 1, 2008	New section

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Sec. 2	July 1, 2008	New section
Sec. 3	October 1, 2008	17a-11(a)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2008	46b-129
Sec. 5	July 1, 2008	17a-3
Sec. 6	July 1, 2008	17a-6(b)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2008	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2008	17a-27f
Sec. 9	July 1, 2008	46a-13 <i>l</i>
Sec. 10	July 1, 2008	17a-4
Sec. 11	July 1, 2008	17a-1
Sec. 12	July 1, 2008	17a-22b(a)
Sec. 13	July 1, 2008	17a-145
Sec. 14	July 1, 2008	17a-37
Sec. 15	July 1, 2008	17a-22c
Sec. 16	October 1, 2008	New section
Sec. 17	July 1, 2008	17a-450a(b)
Sec. 18	July 1, 2008	17a-210c(b)
Sec. 19	July 1, 2008	17a-42(b)
Sec. 20	July 1, 2008	17a-75
Sec. 21	July 1, 2008	17a-90(b)
Sec. 22	July 1, 2008	17a-111b(a)
Sec. 23	July 1, 2008	45a-717(j)
Sec. 24	July 1, 2008	46b-130
Sec. 25	July 1, 2008	Repealer section